



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 4, 2022 + 10:30 AM**

† *For those who are able, please stand.*

**GATHERING**

**CHORALE PRELUDE BWV 645: "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"**  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Donna Maini

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Presbyterian Women Day Circle

ONE: Before the light shined through in a dream,

ALL: **Joseph thought he would have to dismiss Mary quietly.**

ONE: Thankfully the angel came to him declaring,

ALL: **"Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for her child is from the Holy Spirit."**

ONE: Today, let us seek the same peace Joseph seeks as we light this candle,

ALL: **Seeking peace for all families as they seek righteousness with you. Let us worship God!**

As the story of Joseph reveals, the concept of family comes in various ways. That is still true today. That is why each Sunday, our Advent candle lighters epitomize the various families within our larger church family.

† **MORNING SONG #9**

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**  
VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

This hymn likely dates to as early as 6th century Italy. Traditionally, the chant (or antiphons) are seven verses in length and sung over the final seven days of Advent. This morning, we sing three of those verses.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (*refrain*)

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (*refrain*)

† PRAYER OF PEACE

Shari Freeman

God of peace, we long to come into your light - for this is a season of disruption! In our world disruption can be unpleasant and unexpected. This can lead to a future of uncertainty and the loss of control. Through the story of Joseph, however, you reveal that worldly disruption can bring with it otherworldly peace. That amid the energy of uncertainty can come one named Emmanuel, and that beyond whispers of unpleasant gossip can come the Prince of Peace. Let us live under the light of peace this day and beyond, for we come this Advent season to know that God is with us and with that belonging comes the ability to trust completely and vulnerably. ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, let us be at peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE #368

**“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”**

I’ve got peace like a river,  
I’ve got peace like a river,  
I’ve got peace like a river in-a my soul.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.  
Afterwards the children are invited to Children’s Church in the Chapel.)*

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

*(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

HOMILY

*Characters of Christmas: Joseph*

This prayer is a exhortation of Psalm 19:14. It is my prayer for wisdom and assurance that I am guiding you faithfully into the Word of God.

## RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*excerpt from the Scots Confession*)

Rev. Abernethy

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person ... Amen.

**OFFERTORY**      **Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme, BWV 140, No. IV**  
**Chorale: "Zion Hört Die Wächter Singen"**  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Zion hears the watchmen calling; the Faithful hark with joy enthralling,  
they rise and haste to greet their Lord.

See, He comes, the Lord victorious, almighty, noble, true, and glorious,  
in Heaven supreme, on earth adored.

Come now, Thou Holy One, the Lord Jehovah's Son! Alleluja!

We follow all the joyful call to join Him in the Banquet Hall.

† **DOXOLOGY**      **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**  
**OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Lisa Cumming

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**  
**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Abernethy  
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt  
Shari Freeman

ONE: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion. If you prefer a Covid Communion kit, let the pastor know. If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will bring communion to you.)*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL #44 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rev. Abernethy

Donna Maini

#### Leading Today's Worship Service

**Rev. Barrett Abernethy**, Senior Pastor

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor

**Matthias Young**, Director of Worship

**Donna Maini**, Accompanist

**Shari Freeman**, Seminary Intern

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,  
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift  
and someone will be there to greet you.*

We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328  
mvpchurch.org



Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 76051  
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

# MVPC Announcements....



[WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG)

## Zooming Thru The Carols

Dec. 5	I Saw Three Ships	Isaac
Dec. 6	Go Tell It on the Mountain	Barrett
Dec. 7	O Come All Ye Faithful	Barrett
Dec. 8	Silent Night	Matthias
Dec. 9	O Little Town of Bethlehem	Shari

*Contact the office if you are not receiving the daily email with the Zoom link.*

**Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!**

**Visitors & Membership:** Please go to our website: [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org), contact our church office at **404.255.2211**, or speak with one of our pastors after the service. If you are interested in joining MVP Church, please stop at the **Welcome Table in the Narthex** and pick up a visitor bag where someone will be there to greet you.



## Upcoming Services:



**TODAY**

**December 11**

**December 18**

**December 24**

**December 25**

Caroling to our neighbor Active Adult Centers, 4pm

“Characters of Christmas – Mary”, Luke 1:39–56, Shari Freeman

Atlanta Concert Band Christmas Concert – 4pm

Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve, Live Nativity – 4:45pm, Worship – 5:30pm

“Characters of Christmas – The Shepherds”, Luke 2:8–20, Rev. Abernethy

**The Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon** will be on **December 11** after the morning service in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$20. You can sign up in the Narthex. The reservation deadline is **December 6**. We will also be accepting Walmart gift cards and/or cash for a Columbia Seminary student from Pakistan, who will be joining us for lunch. All women of the church are invited, and guests are welcome. The **Book Circle** will meet on Dec. 9. Gigi Gunter will talk about “Life in a Sod House on the Kansas Prairie in the Early 1900’s” – experiences of her mother’s family.



**Adopt a Family:** The CAC Program Holiday connects families who need assistance with people who would like to spread some joy during the holiday season. Families who qualify for the program provide a wish list for their children and the donors “adopt” the families to provide holiday gifts. The generosity of donors and volunteers helps to bring some holiday cheer for families and their children. If you would like to adopt a family or have questions, please contact CAC at [adoptafamily@ourcac.org](mailto:adoptafamily@ourcac.org)



**Senior Adults:** Join us for lunch and a White Elephant Gift Exchange, Saturday, **Dec. 10** at 12:30pm in the Kirk Center.

**2022 Advent Devotional Calendar** from the PCUSA is available on our website or contact the office for a copy.

**Family Promise:** We are looking forward to hosting two families at MVPC beginning Sunday, December 18 with their departure scheduled for late morning on Saturday, December 24. Look for ways to sign up with a link in the weekly Happenings email.

**December 4, 2022**



Make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date!

Giving



**Ministry Team Cards:** are available to be picked up in the Narthex.

**The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom:** Winter issue will be available in January.

**Conversation (Adult Sunday School):** Discovery meets in the Chapel and is using the book "The Present Word". Crossroads meets in the Session Room and is studying "Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.

**The December Communion Offering** will be toys/gifts for the International Women's House Santa Shop. Please pick up a blue bag with the shopping list attached.



**Stephen Ministry:** Joy and excitement in the air but missing in your life? Maybe a recent life event, a move, the death of a friend or family member, a new diagnosis, or a realization that something must change for you to be happy again is causing you sadness rather than joy. Our Stephen Ministry offers a solution for you in the form of a confidential and empowering relationship as long as you need it, to help you clarify goals, move forward, and feel empowered to find new joys. Contact a pastor or Pat Barte, Stephen Leader, to utilize one of our skilled & trained Stephen Ministers.



**MVP Foundation:** Join us in our "\$22K for 2022" matching campaign! We have a wonderful donor willing to match dollar for dollar up to \$22K. To date we have received \$23,564. The MVP Foundation has provided over \$500,000 to various mission partners such as our Youth Group, Los Niños, CAC, as well as the Intern Program here at MVPC.



**Do you feel a need for prayer?** Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to [pbarte@yahoo.com](mailto:pbarte@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**Prayer Concerns:** Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Neill Ferrill, Craig Mackie, Eliana, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Elaine Rawlings, Wilma Schmidt, Rob Southard, and people of Ukraine and Zambia.

**Memorial Service for Lou Baine** is planned for Sunday, January 8. There will be a light lunch after worship and then the service will be at 1:00pm. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan on staying for lunch by **Dec. 20**.

**It's not too late to turn in your Pledge Card!** We have many ways to turn it in: mail it, put it in offering plate on Sunday, drop it off at the church office, email it to [Yvonne@mvpchurch.org](mailto:Yvonne@mvpchurch.org), call Yvonne (404.255.2211 ext. 216), or complete online @ [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org). As of December 1, we have received 72 pledge cards for \$415,275.



**Attendance:** 11/27    Worship    68  
  Online      23

### Financial Update

November 23-30	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 15,123	\$ 454,380	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 850	\$ 43,500	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 0	\$ 7,401	\$ 10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,973</b>	<b>\$ 505,281</b>	<b>\$ 519,000</b>

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to [debbie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)